

RSC Policy Brief: How the Democrat Majority Rejected 78% of Amendments Submitted to the Rules Committee.

October 2010

Background: There have been 4,196 amendments submitted to the Rules Committee through the end of July 2010. Of those nearly 4,200 amendments, only 788 were made in order. There were another 619 cases where Members were only allowed to choose a limited number out of several amendments submitted (as with the earmark amendments to appropriation bills). Not counting these cases, the House Rules Committee only made in order 22% of amendments submitted (788 out of 3,578).

The following is a sample of 30 notable RSC Member amendments that were not made in order.

1. **King (R-IA):** Would have added a provision to the bill to repeal the Community Reinvestment Act. (H.R. 1)
2. **Flake (R-AZ):** Would have struck funding in the bill for the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts. (H.R. 1)
3. **Luetkemeyer (R-MO):** Would have prohibited funding in the bill from being used to make contributions to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). (H.R. 3081)
4. **Goodlatte (R-VA) & Bilbray (R-CA):** Would have prohibited funding for the visa lottery program. (H.R. 3081)
5. **Hensarling (R-TX):** Would have rescinded any unobligated funding provided for the IMF in the recently-enacted FY2009 War Supplemental. (H.R. 3081)
6. **Broun (R-GA):** Would have struck funding for the International Fund for Ireland. (H.R. 3081)
7. **King (R-IA):** Would have prohibited any funds appropriated by the act from being used to violate the Second Amendment rights of the residents of the District of Columbia. (H.R. 3170)
8. **Kingston (R-GA):** Would have prohibited funds in this bill from being used to pay the salaries of “czars” which are not confirmed by the Senate. (H.R. 3170)
9. **Jordan (R-OH) & Chaffetz (R-UT):** Would have prohibited D.C. funds from being used by the District of Columbia to implement or enforce any recognition of a marriage other than traditional marriage. (H.R. 3170)
10. **Gingrey (R-GA):** Would have prohibited funds in this bill from being used to transfer detainees located in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to the United States or its territories. (H.R. 3326)
11. **Sessions (R-TX):** Would have stated that the U.S. Congress recognizes the rapidly advancing intercontinental ballistic missile threats from Iran and North Korea and the need to support the right of Israel, Europe, and the US and its allies to an effective missile defense system by restoring full support to intercontinental ballistic missile technology, for which funding has been cut in the President’s budget and the National Defense Authorization Act. (H.R. 3326)
12. **Bachmann (R-MN):** Would have struck the requirement that individuals purchase health insurance as part of their “shared responsibility” set forth in H.R. 3962. This would further eliminate the penalty for non-compliance with this provision. (H.R. 3962)

13. **Barrett (R-SC):** Would have prohibited the coverage of Hyde prohibited abortions in the public option. Basically this amendment will ensure that the public option in this bill will not facilitate the practice of abortions. (H.R. 3962)
14. **Blackburn (R-TN):** Would have prohibited the establishment of a government plan or exchange until the HHS Secretary certifies that the establishment of such will not (directly or indirectly) cause the cost of the average price of private health insurance premiums to increase. (H.R. 3962)
15. **King (R-IA):** Would have required that beneficiaries of the exchange provide proof of citizenship. (H.R. 3962)
16. **Price (R-GA):** Would have struck Sec. 2401 (Implementation of Best Practices in the Delivery of Health Care) and inserted language establishing best practice guidelines. It places limitations on noneconomic damages and punitive damages in a health care lawsuit in cases in which treatments are based on these practices. (H.R. 3962)
17. **Sessions (R-TX):** Would have created SEC disclosure requirements for any group wanting to influence the shareholder's vote on executive compensation. (H.R. 4173)
18. **Stearns (R-FL):** Would have struck Sections 9009 and 10904, which tax medical devices. (H.R. 4872)
19. **Garrett (R-NJ):** Would have raised the FHA down payment requirement from 3.5% to 5% and prohibited closing costs from being rolled in as well. (H.R. 5072)
20. **Broun (R-GA):** Would have frozen the authorization levels of section 212 (NSF), section 402 (NIST), and section 611 (DOE Office of Science) at FY2010 appropriated levels for fiscal years 2011-2013. It also would have struck the authorization levels for the entire bill for FY2014-2015. (H.R. 5116)
21. **Bachmann (R-MN):** Would have prohibited the Secretary of Defense from entering into contracts with any entity that provides Iran with censorship or surveillance technology or crime control equipment. (H.R. 5136)
22. **Broun (R-GA):** Would have expressed the sense of Congress strongly encouraging the President to order the U.S. flag to be flown on military outposts in the Republic of Haiti. (H.R. 5136)
23. **Gingrey (R-GA):** Would have prohibited federal employees under the jurisdiction of the bill from participating in collective bargaining agreement negotiations during official Federal work hours. (H.R. 5136)
24. **Cole (R-OK):** Would have terminated taxpayer financing of presidential campaigns. (H.R. 5175)
25. **Flake (R-AZ):** Would have prohibited a small business from receiving a loan under the Small Business Lending Fund program if that small business was awarded an earmark as defined by House rules in the previous 1-year period. (H.R. 5297)
26. **Price (R-GA):** Would have instructed the Treasury to dispose of any asset acquired under this legislation within 30 days following repayment. (H.R. 5297)
27. **Roskam (R-IL):** Would have prohibited any regulation that would have at least a \$100 million effect on the economy from taking effect until the House and Senate vote on the regulation. (H.R. 5297)
28. **Hensarling (R-TX):** Would have struck funding in the bill for the HOPE VI program, which has completed its goal of contributing to the demolition of 100,000 severely distressed public housing units. (H.R. 5850)
29. **Schock (R-IL), Issa (R-CA), & Paulsen (R-MN):** Would have prohibited funds from being used to pay the salaries of employees who authorize or approve physical signage indicating a project was funded by the "stimulus." (H.R. 5850)
30. **Sessions (R-TX):** Would have prohibited Amtrak from using funds for long-distance routes whose total direct costs are more than twice its total revenue. (H.R. 5850)